

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04486 210502Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 831

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJ: DEFENSE, THREAT FROM NORTH CONTINUE TO DOMINATE PRESS

REF: SEOUL 4480

1. SEOUL PAPERS MORNING OF JUNE 21 PROMINENTLY FEATURED WHAT HAS BECOME STAPLE OF KOREAN PRESS OVER PAST MONTHS: ARTICLES ON US COMMITMENT, ROKG DEFENSE PREPARATIONS AND THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH.

2. TOP STORY IN JUNE 21 MORNING PRESS CITES CLAIM BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER THAT US WOULD USE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOW DEPLOYED IN KOREA IF NORTH INVADED SOUTH. STORY, FILED BY TONGYANG NEWS SERVICE, SAYS SCHLESINGER MADE CLAIM DURING PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT NOON JUNE 20 (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRY SIMILAR STORY, BUT ATTRIBUTE IT TO JACK ANDERSON COLUMN RATHER THAN TO SECDEF DIRECTLY). SCHLESINGER ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSION FROM NORTH, US WOULD SEND MORE TROOPS TO KOREA.

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3. PRESS ALSO GAVE HEAVY ATTENTION TO ONE OF PRESIDENT PARK'S FAVORITE THEMES: THE ATTAINMENT OF A SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE. SPEAKING JUNE 20 TO A VISITING GROUP OF KOREAN POLITICAL SCIENTISTS WORKING IN THE US PARK SAID THAT CONCERN OVER THE US DEFENSE COMMITMENT WAS IMPORTANT. BUT IT SHOULD BE OUTWEIGHED BY CONCERN OVER ACHIEVING SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENSE. PARK ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT DEFENSE CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TIME BEING.

4. ANOTHER MAJOR STORY OF THE DAY PUSHED PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL'S CURRENT LINE (REFTEL) THAT PYONG-YANG WAS NOW ENGAGED IN DEVIOUS PEACE OFFENSIVE IN ORDER TO SPUR DISUNITY IN SOUTH. SPEAKING ON JUNE 20 DURING A LOCAL INSPECTION TOUR, KIM ASSERTED THAT YUSHIN SYSTEM WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL KIM IL-SONG GAVE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROOF THAT HE WOULD NOT RESORT TO FORCE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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